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If we are reasonable, there is good ground to believe that we can come to an understanding with England and other nations that will secure all the protection we can properly ask for our seals."

The boundary question is more difficult. The line between Alaska and Columbia has been indicated in treaties by certain land marks and a range of mountains, but has never been surveyed. To survey it properly would take ten years and cost \$1,500,000. The best way to settle it is for a Commission of the two governments to meet and agree upon an arbitrary line, at least until the survey can be completed.

THE THREE AMERICAS.

Delegates from nearly all the independent nations on the Western Hemisphere, met in Washington, D. C., October 2d, as an International Conference of American nations.

This may be called the first meeting of the kind, though repeated efforts have been made to secure such a conference of American nations, and once, in 1826, delegates came together and held a session of one or two days.

The call for the Conference states the object of the meeting to consider measures for the promotion of the peace and prosperity of the American nations, for the formation of a "customs union," to promote communication between the different countries, regulate importation and exportation of merchandise, secure a common silver currency, and provide for the settlement of disputes or difficulties that may arise between them by arbitration.

The nations represented are Argentine Republic, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chili, Ecuador, Guatemala, Hayti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, San Domingo, San Salvador, Uruguay, United States and Venezuela. Canada, as a dependency of Great Britain, Cuba as a colony belonging to Spain, and Guiana being ruled by several foreign powers, were not entitled to representation. The delegates are at present visiting the prominent industries and places of interest in this country. No doubt good will come out of the Congress's meetings. The interest awakened by it in the several nations represented will result in a better acquaintance with our own half of the world. Specially will South America be brought before the world. Our children will hear of the great empires, and the immense wealth of that country, and learn of it as we have learned of Africa, which in our school days was called "*The Dark Continent*."

The Conference brings out the fact that the English language predominates on the Western Hemisphere. It is probably spoken by 70,000,000 people; but the Spanish language is the tongue of at least 45,000,000 people, occupying more than 8,000,000 square miles of land, or over half the surface of the three Americas. Every nation represented in the Conference, with the exception of the United States and Hayti, speaks the Spanish tongue. This prevalence of the Spanish language is the principal evidence that now remains of the discoveries and conquests the Spaniards made and the colonies they planted on these continents.

The Peace Society is universally respected to-day and it will be quite fashionable in another decade. — *London Daily News*.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

After more than a month's travel the Conference reassembled in Washington Nov. 18, Secretary Blaine in the chair, and proceeded to prepare business, appoint committees, etc. The Brazilian revolution may delay the action of the Delegates from that country. The following are among the subjects on which the Conference will act by its special committees as reported by a general business committee:

Three committees of five members each to consider and report upon the best means of extending and improving the facilities for transportation and postal and telegraphic communication between the several countries represented that border on the Atlantic ocean, Pacific ocean and the Gulf of Mexico and the Carribean sea, respectively.

A committee of three to consider and report upon the adoption of a uniform system of weights and measures.

A committee of seven to consider and report upon the best method of establishing and maintaining sanitary regulations in commerce between the several countries represented.

A committee on international law, to consist of five members, to report uniform rules of private international law affecting civil and commercial matters and the legalization of documents.

A committee on general welfare, to consist of seven members, to report *some plan of arbitration for the settlement of disagreements that may hereafter arise between the several nations represented in the conference*, and to receive, consider and report upon any other topics that may be proposed other than those included in the invitation from the government of the United States.

The report was ordered to be printed, and laid aside for future consideration. The conference adjourned until Wednesday.

Secretary Blaine has appointed William E. Curtis executive officer of the conference, to look after everything connected with the external arrangements.

HOW WAR BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN WAS AVERTED.

In 1874 there was imminent danger of war between Japan and China. A Japanese embassy went to Peking to assert Japan's imperial rule over the Loo Choo Islands. At such a time war would have greatly hindered every form of mission work. [At what time would it not?] The natives were greatly excited. The missionaries offered prayer that this work might not cease or be interfered with. Nothing seemed likely to allay the belligerent feelings of the Japanese. They were on the eve of departure in great anger. Sir Thomas Wade, the British Minister, feeling the need of peaceful measures, offered as a last resort to be their mediator. The offer was suddenly accepted. Sir Thomas became the pacificator. War was prevented, and has never occurred between these nations. Could we ascribe this to an answer to prayer? I believe we can; an answer to both the general and special prayers of God's people. In a similar manner war between Russia and China was avoided after the rejection of the treaty of Livadia. By these large coincidences we note the divine control which is an answer to prayer.—*Dr. E. K. Alden*.